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Page 4

AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS

Please cancel claims 1-18 without prejudice.

Please add new claims 19-31.

This listing of claims below will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

Listing of Claims:

1-18 (Cancelled)

19. (New) A sushi maker comprising:

a base plate;

a roll-up sheet for holding a seaweed layer, the roll-up sheet being positionable on the base plate in a substantially flat configuration when held by clamps, rollable into a cylindrical configuration when released from the clamps;

a cooked-rice container with an opening for dispensing a layer of rice on the seaweed layer when held by the roll-up sheet, the area of the opening being substantially equal to the area of the seaweed layer; and

a cutting device for separating the dispensed layer of rice from rice contained in the container.

20. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 19, comprising a compression device for extruding rice from the container through the opening.

21. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 20, wherein the compression device is manually operable, electrically operable, pneumatically operable, or hydraulically operable.

22. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 19, comprising a plurality of retaining elements across the opening for retaining the rice inside the container when no pressure is applied on the rice.

23. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 22, wherein the plurality of retaining elements are substantially evenly spaced, and wherein the cutting device comprises a plurality of substantially evenly spaced cutting elements for moving a predetermined distance across the layer of rice from a position substantially aligned with the retaining elements.
24. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 19, wherein the cutting device comprises a plurality of substantially evenly spaced cutting elements for moving a predetermined distance across the layer of rice.
25. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 24, wherein the predetermined distance is substantially equal to the space between two adjacent cutting elements.
26. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 19, comprising rails along which the container may be moved.
27. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 19, comprising a mechanism attached to the base plate and engaging the clamps, the mechanism operable to controllably roll the roll-up sheet from its substantially flat configuration to its cylindrical configuration.
28. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 27, wherein said mechanism is in the form of a left-hand right-hand rotatable screw, the screw engaging nuts attached to the clamps.
29. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 19, wherein the cutting device comprises a wire.
30. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 29, wherein the wire comprises stainless steel.
31. (New) The sushi maker as claimed in claim 19, wherein the container is adapted to be moved with respect to the cutting device to slice off the rice layer.